



**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
FORMER CENTRAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE SITE
Blanding Street at Williams Street, Columbia, South Carolina**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announces a 30-day period for citizens to comment on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract for the Former Central Correctional Institute Site. The contract, **VCC-06-5460-NRP**, will be between “Beach CanalSide, LLC” and DHEC. The contract will allow “Beach CanalSide, LLC” to purchase the property as a Brownfields site, which may have environmental pollution resulting from past practices. “Beach CanalSide, LLC” did not create the pollution, but wishes to buy the property and voluntarily clean it up for reuse. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will not hold “Beach CanalSide, LLC” liable under State Superfund laws for pre-existing contamination in exchange for performing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. If contamination has spread off of the property, State law will not allow affected parties to file suit against “Beach CanalSide, LLC” for the past operations; however, legal action may be pursued against any former owners or operators.

The Brownfields site being purchased by “Beach CanalSide, LLC” consists of 27 acres between Blanding and Hampton Streets and Williams Street and the Columbia water canal. The property was formerly a maximum-security prison from the 1860’s until 1994. Several prison industries on the property used hazardous chemicals and had releases to the environment. In addition, lead particles were released across the site from removal of buildings containing lead-based paints from the property. In 2003, the City of Columbia conducted an environmental assessment under a Voluntary Cleanup Contract and removed contaminated soils to meet residential cleanup standards.

“Beach CanalSide, LLC” intends to redevelop the property into mix-used commercial, retail and residential use. Due to the former environmental pollution at the site, “Beach CanalSide, LLC” wishes to enter into a contract under DHEC’s Voluntary Cleanup Program. Under the proposed contract, DHEC will test soil samples across the property after “Beach CanalSide, LLC” completes soil-grading activities. If levels of contaminants are found at levels higher than residential cleanup standards, the “Beach CanalSide, LLC” will remove contaminated soil from the property to meet residential living standards and may be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment based on the laboratory findings. The “Beach CanalSide, LLC” will also contribute money to a State fund that may be used for cleanup actions at other sites.

DHEC promotes redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfields sites across the state so that these properties do not become abandoned or unusable. Public comments on proposed Brownfields contracts assist DHEC in balancing the environmental and redevelopment issues to be in the best interest of the state. The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/public.asp>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882. Any comments or questions may be directed to Craig Dukes, Brownfields Public Information Coordinator, SCDHEC – Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; email dukescv@dhec.sc.gov, TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the Former Central Correctional Institute Site proposed contract until April 18, 2006.